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The Splinter Groups :

Can They Merge Without Karunanidhi ?

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE General Secretary of the four-months-old Makkal Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Mr. V.R. Nedunchezhian, has said in a Press statement that he is striving to bring together like-minded political parties in Tamil Nadu like the AIADMK, the MDMK and the DMK (without Mr. M. Karunanidhi).

His statement would be akin to Janata Party Chairman S. Chandrasekhar saying: "I want merger of the Janata Party with the Congress, but without Mrs. Indira Gandhi".

Indian politics is getting curiouser and Curiouser day by day, that even Lewis Carrol's Alice would have perferred to come to India—the land of political tamashas—instead of just walking through the Looking Glass.

In the first place, what prompted the breakaway between the DMK and MGR ? It was the clash of the two personalities. After the 1977 Lok Sabha election, a group led by Mr. Nedunchezhian left the DMK to form the Makkal DMK. Again the reason was the dominance of Mr. Karunanidhi within the DMK.

SOLID BACKING

The present composition of the DMK is fully behind its President, Mr. Karunanidhi, and any talk of like-minded parties getting together as far as the DMK is concerned, is possible only with Mr. Karunanidhi as its spokesman who will be authorised by the General Council to negotiate with other parties. This being the case, it is difficult to concieve of Mr. Nedunchezhian entering into an understanding with the DMK minus Mr. Karunanidhi unless he is entertaining the fond hope that Mr. Karunanidhi will be exposed or expelled by his own Party and thus a way will be paved for talks.

One really wonders where is the urgency now for a merger of these so-called like-minded parties which at one time belonged to the parent body like the

(Contd. on page 8)

GULF EXODUS

THE off-loading of the nearly 90 UAE bound "illegal" emigrants from two aircraft at Bombay's Santa Cruz airport the other day underscores yet again that human greed rather than good sense continues to dominate the complex problem of exodus to the Gulf region. Since Indian manpower is in great demand in the oil-rich sheikhdoms in the area and those in this country who are either jobless or poorly paid only too anxious to go there, it should not be too difficult to regulate the flow of job-seekers. Ironically the restrictions laid down by the government to protect the intending emigrants have themselves bred a situation in which crooks and racketeers, operating from behind the facade of bogus employment-cum-travel agencies, exploit the gullible and the illiterate. As the welcome, if belated, liberalisation of the passport policy shows, some of the curbs in force so far have been pointless. But this cannot surely be said of all restrictions, past and present, especially because the government has been blamed, often enough, for failing to protect those Indians who, dazzled by the lure of the rupee equivalent of the prevailing wages in the sheikhdoms but unaware of their real purchasing power, are disillusioned on arrival and sometimes even cheated of the wages promised to them.

Even so, a nagging question remains: why must job-seekers run the grave risk of being declared illegal emigrants and continue to patronise the nearly 5,000 unauthorised and unlawful employment agents in the field rather than the 120 recruitment agencies duly recognised by, and registered with, the Union Labour Ministry? The answer, alas, is that officially approved agencies have to follow irksome and time-consuming procedures which try the patience of both the employers in urgent need of skilled workers and the intending emigrants consumed by the fear that the lucrative employment market might dry up before they can get there. For instance, it is not clear why the authorised agencies should be required by the Union labour ministry to take a minimum of 4 days to make necessary inquiries and secure the required documents while the agents operating outside the law can complete these formalities far more speedily unless, of course, the latter are taking the hopeful travellers for a ride. Moreover, while there is much to be said for the government's insistence that the employers must sign proper contracts before the workers can be permitted to travel, the complaint of the employers that it is unfair to expect them to deposit a part of worker's wages even before he leaves the Indian shores surely merits consideration. It is a matter not so much of one irksome detail or another but of the overall approach. It is a sad comment on the whole business that the law under which the emigrants are sought to be protected was enacted in 1922 and has never been amended since.

—*Times of India.*

Tamil Religion

HAVE you heard of anything called TAMIL RELIGION ? We have heard of Tamil Cuture, Tamil Traditio etc., but not of Tamil religion so far. But in an article recently published by a leading English daily Dr. T. M. P. Mahadevan has mentioned of it.

Dr. Mahadevan recently visited Mauritius, where people of Indian origin form a major chunk of the population. He has written thus : "On account of unfortunate political influence the Tamils, with some exceptions, are beginning to say that they are not Hindus, that they belong to what they call "Tamil Religion". "Only the North Indians are Hindus. We are not Hindus." This is the slogan of the citizens of Tamil origin, with the result that the majority of Hindus is becoming reduced. There may be reasons for this, several in fact. One of them is the confusion between Hindi and Hindus, any one speaking Hindi is a Hindu, and any one who does not speak Hindi or speaks Tamil is not a Hindu! This seems to be the logic."

It is not mentioned in the article what political influence that has changed the thinking of the people of Tamil origin there. Is it local political influence or imported from Tamil Nadu, is not known.

For Tamils in other countries this piece of information will be a revelation.

It is really shocking to note that this kind of feelings of disunity is kindled among the Indian communities, even in foreign countries.

THUS SPAKE
THE MAHATMA

The productions of man's Art have their value only in so far as they help the soul onward towards self-realization.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Sept. 11, 1977

UNITY MOVES

Unity moves are always welcome. But how far the Makkal D. M. K.'s move to unite all followers of the late Mr. Annadurai will be useful must be carefully considered.

The first split in DMK came because Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, the party treasurer, smelt wide-spread corruption and misuse of party funds. He along with the CPI leader gave shape to charges of Corruption against the DMK ministers. Even Mr. Kamaraj Nadar was only vague in his charges.

The Anna DMK (now All India Anna DMK) was formed with the really poor in the party to espouse the policies of the late Mr. Annadurai, which MGR described in short as 'Annaism'. The new party has successfully faced prestigious bye-elections and has come to power with a comfortable majority.

The second split brought forth the Makkal DMK. It had some eminent leaders of the party but it had no funds and so no followers. Instead of forming the new party, if the leaders had joined the ADMK unconditionally, they would have strengthened the hands of MGR.

After surviving all attacks, the well-established AIDMK does not require additions from the DMK now. All people worthy of Anna have already joined the party. The new defectors will be only power-seekers.

Though the Makkal DMK leaders don't like the "dictatorial policy" of Mr. M. Karunanidhi, other people in DMK are quite happy with him.

The Janata merger at the centre and the Congress merger in Tamil Nadu clearly prove that such mergers only create groups within parties, affecting their democratic working.

If the AIADMK agrees to accept MDMK as a party, the present peace in the party will be definitely disturbed. But there is no harm in admitting MDMK people as individuals having belief in "Annaism".

We hope the young party with its open-hearted leader will be well advised in this matter.

SELF-CRITICISM

SELF-CRITICISM, if carried too far, may be quite a dangerous practice. If you go on probing your weaknesses, you will soon find there is nothing within you on which you can prop even a semblance of your self-respect. This is cutting the ground from under your own feet which can only prejudice your growth and development. It is one thing to be conscious of your shortcomings, but quite another to to bait yourself constantly with this. If you do it, you soon lose faith in yourself, which is a prelude to your disintegration. All hopes of your being able to redeem yourself someday are dashed to the ground.

Self-criticism is good to the extent that it may save us from falling into the error of being self-complacant, an error common among most of us. Due caution should certainly be exercised against this, but the other extreme, constantly finding faults with ourselves, is equally damaging and perhaps worse. It may cost us the capacity, or even the will, to try to overcome our shortcomings. A recurrent idea in the Hindu scriptures is that you are what you think you are. If you think you are bad, you become bad in the long run, even if you are not now and if you are bad already, you become worse.

Some people parade their weaknesses in public, partly to draw sympathy and partly to derive satisfaction from the feeling that they have made ample recompense for their pitfalls. This is self-humiliation at its worst and is deprecated in the Hindu scriptures as 'suicidal' (*atmahanan*). If one has done something wrong, one should certainly be sorry and do all that is possible to avoid repeating it, but that is not to say that one has to condemn oneself publicly for this. A sinner of today is a saint of tomorrow. A prince is a prince even if he is temporarily in a beggar's clothes. There is divinity in man, which fact no temporary lapse on his part can alter. Man has infinite possibilities. Given the right kind of education, help, and environment, given, above all, faith, he can go far, he can improve to the extent of being a Buddha. It is only man who can improve thus.

Faith, according to Swami Vivekananda, is the key to success in life. A man, in his opinion, is an atheist if he does not have faith in himself. Faith generates strength, courage, and hope— qualities which enable a man to resuscitate himself, to put himself together even if ravaged, again and again, by his own lapses. A man can save himself only when he wills to save himself and faith alone can give that will. When he loses that faith, he is destroyed.

Yet self-criticism is the best criticism. It is like an artist judging his own work. He knows best where he has erred, where a light touch of the brush is still needed to give his picture the life and colour that he wants. It is not that you have to be impervious to the criticism of others, but it is always wrong to judge yourself by what others think or say about you. They see your exterior but not those forces within that may be working to give a new tilt to your life. It is good to be modest and hear what others have to say, but you cannot afford to surrender command of your life to them. Others may say good things or bad about you but you have to bear your own cross. If you have faith, you will be able to bear it and in the end, save yourself too.

—*Bulletin of the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture.*

The Pill: Hard To Swallow

How had a couple manged to have six children in seven years, even though their doctor prescribed the Pill?

When the doctor visited the family the husband admitted he took the pill,

"I took them because she is a little scatter brained," he said, "And I could not trust her to take them regularly."

The case was reported in a medical conference in Heilbronn, West Germany.

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Sure to get Them

While a judge was summing up in a Budapest court two workmen entered and asked the clerk if they could take away the 200 year-old grandfather clock for repairs.

The clerk agreed to their request. The two workmen doffed their caps, bowed to the bench and took the clock.

It was six months before the police realised the clock had been stolen. And now it's feared the antique timepiece has been sold to a rich collector in America.

Bridge Scandal

Bridge, a card game elevated to the rank of intellectual sport in Western Europe, is especially popular in Italy. The Italian Bridge Federation has 13,000 members and its teams have been winning more European championships than any other. A scandal has now erupted. A tape-recorded phone conversation revealed an alleged conspiracy to cheat during tournaments with the help of a secret code whereby a player is able, by the way he is holding a cigarette and moving his head, to signal to his partner what hand he has. The team affirms that the tape-recording was the handiwork of one player because he had not been included in the national team.

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Dues

Erike Gugg was out of work for a year and fell behind with her trade union dues. The union sent bailiffs to her home in Nuremberg, West Germany, to collect furniture worth £25 (about Rs. 450–) she owned.

THE WATCH INDUSTRY

POSSESSION of a watch is no longer a symbol of status but has become a necessity. In the early years, use of wrist watches in India was generally confined to the higher strata of society and was till recently an item of gift presented to the newly married.

The sun dial and the sand cone have served their purpose of measuring time in the past. The improvement in metallurgy and machine-making technology has made possible the manufacture of precision watches. The latter half of the Twentieth Century made a great stride by producing extra-ordinarily accurate watches of electronics quartz and liquid crystal. The conventional mechanical watches, however, still play a dominant role so far as the total demand of the world is concerned.

DEMAND

India with its vast population and continuous improvement in the standard of living has substantial market for wrist watches. The availability of wrist watches, however, from the indigenous source so far, has been negligible and that accounted for large scale smuggling of wrist watches in the past.

There has been no accurate assessment of demand for wrist watches in the country. It has been estimated that the demand for wrists watches will be in the order of 6 million units and it may go up to 8 million by 1979-80.

Till recently we had only two units producing wrist watches—one in the public sector and the other in the private sector—in the country. They are: The Hindustan Machine Tools and Indo French Time Industry.

Noting that there is a very wide gap between demand and legal supply, Government have now given serious consideration to expediting indigenous development of this industry.

Steps are being taken to step up production in the units of Hindustan Machine Tools, which have planned to set up a number of assembly units in various states.

Side by side encouragement has been given to units in the private sector to set up watch units. Development Commissioners for the Small Scale Industries have also launched a programme for setting up a number of small scale units in the State/Union Territories.

H.M.T.

Hindustan Machine Tools at present have two units in Bangalore and Srinagar, producing wrist watches. They have also planned to manufacture components on a large scale, and to get them assembled in a number of assembly units being set up in collaboration with various State Governments. This would enlarge the base for horological industry while providing larger employment and helping the dispersal of industrial base in the country.

HMT have plans to manufacture 2.67 million watches in the current year and this production level is proposed to be geared up to reach the production level of 4.2 million watches by 1982.

The watches produced by HMT have already earned a place for themselves both in the matter of durability and accuracy of time.

MORE UNITS

Indo French Time Industry, Bombay, have also achieved their full capacity of 400,000 watches. It has also raised the indigenous content of components upto 90 per cent. This Company has also plans for expansion to achieve a production level of one million watches.

Three more units in the private sector have gone into production during the last one or two years and they have started their initial production programme. These units will be able to achieve their total approved capacity of 1.3 million watches per annum during the next 2-3 years and simultaneously develop indigenous manufacture of components as per approved phased programme.

Government have also permitted nine new parties to have foreign technical collaboration for setting up watch factories with a total capacity of 4.18 million pieces.

All these units have a phased production programme for the next five years to achieve their full approved capacity.

These units are also supposed to indigenise manufacture of almost all the components in the country itself, leaving only a few items of critical nature.

CRASH PROGRAMME

To step up indigenous availability of wrist watches from the current year itself Government have also undertaken a crash production programme for wrist watches. Under the crash programme, a Task Force was constituted in January this year to study the existing capacity for manufacture of wrist watches and formulate concrete proposals for quick yielding and long-term schemes and to examine proposals received from each manufacturer in the organised as well as the small scale sector. It was pointed out that the level of production for wrist watches is to be achieved to the tune of 4 million watches during the current year. Some imports for this purpose have been considered, taking into account the fact that the newly set up watch units would require 3-4 years to indigenise production of components and even after that certain critical components have to be imported. To cover this time gap Government have decided to allow import of certain components so that there is increased availability of wrist watches to counter smuggling activities.

However, this is only a short-term measure. The Task Force, immediately after it was set up, went into action and inspected various units, invited their proposals and arranged meetings with the individual parties to ascertain their capabilities, their programmes for manufacture of wrist watches and the assistance that they would need from the Government for the implementation of their schemes without further loss of time. The efforts put in by the Task Force activated the parties which have secured approval of their programmes to expedite, implementation of their projects.

The expectation is that during the coming years, India will have established a substantial base for manufacture of wrist watches and to that extent, the smugglers' sector will be eliminated.

TIME FACTOR

THE balance wheel of a fine-jewelled lever watch turns at 60 mph, making 160,000,000 turns per year.

Car wheels turning as many times would take you about 200 000 miles.

A watch is not necessarily better because it has more jewels. It is where the jewels are, not how many, that counts.

It's not true that watches may not work on you because of excessive personal electricity or magnetism.

Certain watch parts generate currents when moved in a magnetic field but the magnetic field produced by the human body is 2,500 times weaker than the Earth's which influences a watch by only a few tenths of a second each day.

THIRD-LEVEL AIRLINE

THE Minister for Civil Aviation, Mr Purushottam Kaushik, is a man in a hurry. Within weeks of assuming office, he put the sleepy hollow of Raipur, which also happens to be his constituency, back on the route map of Indian Airlines, from which it had been taken during Air Chief Marshal P.C. Lal's first tenure as chairman. Along with Raipur, Jabalpur has also been made accessible by air twice a week.

Now, Mr Kaushik proposes to extend this privilege to other small towns in other States, Indian Airlines and its cost-conscious chairman notwithstanding.

A scheme has already been prepared to set up what is fancifully dubbed a "third-level airline".

Mr Kaushik has spoken of involving State Governments and the three autonomous corporations, Air India, Indian Airlines and India Tourism Development Corporation, in setting up the new organisation.

Rather optimistically it has also been put about that the third level airline might become operational by next July, which is sooner than it normally takes either of the two national airlines to decide to place an order for a new aircraft.

The initial cost of this venture is estimated at Rs. 30 crores, but might be substantially higher. Devoid of all frills, each flight is to be operated by a single pilot—in violation of the norms of airline saftey—and the fleet of 20 aircraft to consist of small machines capable of short take off and landing. Underlying this is the cosy assumption that the type of aircraft and the scale of operations Mr Kaushik has in mind are necessarily cheap.

The main argument in favour of this project of curious priorities is that it would provide fast and efficient transport to long neglected areas. Whether there is demand, or whether the regions sought to be served are able to absorb the cost, are some of the questions unanswered. Considering the more pressing need for roads and improved railway facilities, the third-level airline, a dusted off version of the feeder-line heavily touted in the 1960's, is an irrelevance. Another altruistic reason suggested is that it would create job opportunities for unemployed pilots with commercial licences, more than 600 at the last count, deserves to be considered sympathetically. But there are other things to be noted besides the fact that not everyone with a commercial pilot's licence is fit for regular airline flying. Indian Airlines and Air India have been pursuing a seemingly conservative and unpopular recruitment policy, though both are short of pilots. In any event, unemployment among pilots is likely to persist in more aggravated form when, under the IAF's new policy on promotion, swarms of passed over squadron leaders, in their middle to late thirties, begin to turn to civil avaition for a future. —STATESMAN

Two Brothers

ON the site where the Temple stood, two brothers once lived. The elder did not marry, and was all alone in the world. The younger had a wife and three children. The brothers had no material possessions except a plot of land which they had inherited from their father. They did not want to divide up the land, because they loved each other. Instead, they worked it together, and when the harvest was over they counted the sheaves and divided them equally between them, placing them in two piles, each beside his own tent.

One year, after the harvest, the elder brother lay down to sleep beside his pile. But he could not fall asleep, because the thought ran through his mind: My brother has a wife and children to care for, while I am alone in the world and I work only to fill my own belly. It isn't right that I should take an equal share with my brother. At midnight he got up, took some sheaves from his pile, stealthily went to his brother's pile and placed them there. Then he returned to his place and slept peacefully. That same night the younger brother was also unable to sleep. He thought: My brother is all alone in the world. I have sons who will look after me when I am old and unable to work. What will my brother do in his old age? It isn't fair of me to take an equal share of the produce of our field! So before daybreak, the younger brother got up, took a few sheaves from his pile, stealthily placed them on his brother's pile, and returned to his place and slept.

In the morning, the brothers saw that their piles were as large as ever. They wondered greatly about this, but they did not say a word to each other. The same happened the next night and the morning that followed. On the third night, as the brothers were carrying sheaves to each other's piles, they met midway, recognized each other, and wept, for they realized what had been happening. They left their sheaves on the spot where they had met, and without a word returned to their respective tents. God saw what the brothers had done, and He blessed the spot where they had met. Later, Solomon, King of Israel, built the Temple on that very spot—the Temple from which the message of peace, love and brotherhood went out to the whole world.

(An ancient legend)

FUN AND LAUGHTER

REAL VISION

A television salesman once tried to sell one of h s elaborate models to Ed Wynn. "just think," he said; "you can sit comfortably in your hotel room, press a button on your television set, and a beautiful scantily clad girl is suddenly standing before you."

"In the hotels I go to," Wynn said, "I can get the same thing without television."

x x x

IN VAIN

A crew of labourers worked two hours hoisting a one-ton motorboat into the show window of a downtown San Francisco shop. Just as they were walking away, a man walked up and said, "I'll take it." And the crew went back to work—removing it.

x x x

DIAGNOSIS

A comedian, notorious for stealing jokes, was complaining to a friend that he was suffering from a mysterious ailment no doctor could diagnose.

"I konw what's troubling you," said the friend. "It's your conscience."

EXCHANGE

A youngster was sent to the bakery to bring home a loaf of raisin bread. Fifteen minutes later he was back at the bakery and in a very angry tone said to the baker, "There was a fly in that loaf of bread you sold me."

"Okay," soothed the baker. "Bring back the fly and I'll give you a raisin."

x x x

DOES NOT FOLLOW

Debt Collector: "Is your master at home?"

Servant (curtly): "No, he isn't."

Debt Collector (suspiciously): "But I can see his hat hanging in the hall."

Servant: "Well, what's that got to do with it? One of my dresses is hanging on the line in the back garden, but I'm not there."

* * *

PLAIN EGG !

Head Waiter: "Would monsieur prefer Spanish, French, or Italian cooking?"

Customer: "I don't mind—I want a boiled egg !"

BITTER BIT

A successful lady writer who met her dearest enemy, a well known actress, at a party.

"I simply adored your latest book, darling," said the actress, carrying on the feud. "Who wrote it for you ?"

"Angel" replied the writer, "I'm so glad you liked it. Who read it to you ?"

x x x

LOATHING SECLUSION ?

Judy Canova was lamenting the fact that there were no men in her life. The only man who had ever asked for her hand was a guy who got stuck in some quicksand and needed help. A friend was trying to console Judy.

"According to statistics," she said, "women who have nothing to do with men, live longer,"

"They don't live longer," Judy wailedr "It just seems longer."

* * *

DISPLAY

A New York youngster, who was more accustomed to man-made wonders than the marvels of nature, was treated to a vacation in the country. There he saw his first rainbow.

The attitude of the child, as he gazed upon the gorgeous phenomenon, was one of wonder and perplexity.

"Mother", then finally exclaimed "it's very beautiful, but what is it supposed to advertise ?"

A FRIEND OF FARMERS

Land Development Banks have been playing an important role in rural development by providing long-term credit to farmers for minor irrigation works like sinking wells, installation of pump sets, for buying farm machinery etc. They also lend money for establishing dairy and poultry farms. At present there are 20 Cooperative Land Development Banks with over 1,700 branches in the country with their operations touching a little over 1,900 crores.

LIC: 21 Years Of Progress

Inaugurating LIC's country-wide celebrations of 'Insurance Week' commencing 1st September and lasting till 7th September 1977, Shri R B. Pradhan, Chairman, announced in Bombay that in view of its completing 21 years of its fruitful service to the nation, LIC was looking forward to greater involvement of the younger generation in its activities through the week-long celebrations in 579 centres all over the country where the LIC has its 847 offices engaged in serving its Agents and Policyholders. Life insurance being future-oriented, it is vitally concerned with the welfare of the younger generation and, therefore, LIC has announced a nation-wide essay competition for the college students on the subject "A secure family is a happy family" and looks forward to closer association with the younger generation in furtherance of its aims and objectives.

SOCIAL INVESTMENTS

Commenting on LIC's progress during the short span of 21 years, Shri Pradhan observed that its new business has soared from Rs. 283 crores in the first year to Rs. 5119 crores during the last financial year. During the same period, policies in force have increased from 57 lakhs to 203 lakhs. In addition to this, over 40 5 lakhs persons have been covered through the Group Insurance Schemes. Considerable headway has been made in spreading the protection of life insurance to the rural areas. LIC's rural business last year amounted to Rs 575.34 crores under 6.86 lakhs of policies which accounted for more than a third of its policies issued last year.

"Apart from covering risk and providing security to millions, LIC's main forte" observed Shri Pradhan, "has been its investments wherein the money collected through premia is invested back in various schemes for people's welfare under different sectors." The net Book Value of LIC's investments as at the end of the last financial year stood at Rs. 3552.11 crores and it continues to be the largest single investor in the country, keeping before it the interests of the community as a whole. Investments made by LIC have helped to produce more infrastructural facilities like power, housing, industrial estates as well as goods for mass consumption creating substantial employment opportunities. LIC's investments in socially-purposive investments like Electricity, Housing, Water-Supply and Drainage, Land Development Bank Debentures, Sugar Co-operatives, etc. amounted to Rs.1631 crores.

Nearly 53% of the urban population in 16 States of the country and considerable rural population now enjoy piped water facility due to LIC's innovative policy of such investments. Thousands of villages have been electrified and more than eight lakh houses have been built in special townships and commercial complexes in some cities. Its investments in Land Development Banks and Sugar Co-operatives have helped in the progress of the agricultural sector.

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS

The amount of money disbursed each year by LIC in respect of claims settled has increased almost seven-fold from Rs. 25 crores at the time of nationalisation to Rs. 177 crores last year. So far LIC has settled claims to the tune of over Rs. 1500 crores The ratio of outstanding claims to claims intimated has come down considerably from 57% as on 31-12-1957 to 14 14% as on 31.3.1977. The pace of improvement in claim settlement operations in particular and all policyholders' services in general had been accelerated substantially during the last 2/3 years. The outstanding claims ratio took 17 years to drop from 57% to 25% but it had come down from the latter figure to the present level of 14.14% within just 3 years. This is a direct result of the various] vigilant steps taken by LIC to expedite claim settlements over the past few years. Average amount of claims settled per working day now comes to Rs. 62 lakhs.

PROGRESSIVE STEPS

Shri Pradhan also mentioned that LIC had, over the years, taken many progressive steps such as removal of extra premiums in respect of certain hazardous occupations followed by the weaker sections of the society, liberalisation of conditions governing life insurance for women, extension of non-medical schemes, reduction of premium rates in respect of without profits plans, term assurances, annuities and pure endowment plans under Group Gratuity Schemes, reduction of extra premium for accident and disability benefits, introduction of new plans like the Centenary Policy, the Grihalakshmi Policy and the Cash and Cover, Money Back and Progressive Protection policies to cater to the changing needs of the community.

Concluding the review of LIC's progress Shri Pradhan made a special mention of the fact that due to several steps taken by it during the year ending 31st March 1977, LIC's overall expense ratio as well as renewal expense ratio had shown substantial improvement from 29.66 in 1975-76 to 26 10 per cent in 1976-77 and from 18.14 to 14.92 percent respectively.

Shri Pradhan expressed his confidence that with the experience gained over a score of years, the institution with its team of dedicated workers will look forward to improving its services to the policyholders, agents and the nation with greater vigour.

She Stormed in And Conquered

When her husband, Henry, was several hours late arriving home from his Chicago real-estate office, where he was a junior clerk. Mrs Laura Bennett knew just where to find him.

For his boss had often invited him to play poker with him and his friends, who could afford losses which crippled Henry and forced his wife to pawn her jewellery.

She went to the boss's house, stormed past his servant, and told the chief: "Stop robbing my husband. He's a bad card player. Let me take over his hand or I'll tell the cops about your card schools." She was given a chair and play was resumed.

Five hours later she was told: "You've cleaned us out."

Laura had won about £43,000 (Rs. 774,000 apprx) in cash and become the new owner of a small yatch, a near-new car, a set of golf clubs, a silver cigarette case and a stamp collection.

Vegetarianism In Practice At Raj Bhavan

THE first act of Mr Prabhudas Patwari after assuming office as Governor of Tamil Nadu was to impose a ban on serving non vegetarian food and offering of cigar at the Raj Bhavan parties.

Dr. T.M.P. Mahadevan, President of the Indian Vegetarian Congress, at a meeting held at Hotel Palm grove, Madras, said it was a "significant silent revolution worthy of emulation by others in the country".

The Governor, who presided over the meeting, said that the tax payers would be happy to know that his decision has brought down the expenses of Raj Bhavan to a certain extent.

He was happy that many of the foreign dignitaries and guests at Raj Bhavan enjoyed the vegetarian delecacies.

He specifically mentioned an instance of a Swedish millionaire. After a three day stay at Raj Bhavan the guest told Mr Patwari: "I would like to miss the meat, if I could get such fine nutritious delicacies elsewhere also."

The guest was served on the first day Gujarati food. On the second day he had South Indian dishes and on the third day he enjoyed North Indian and Punjabi preparations.

India To Host World Vegetarian Congress

INDIA will be hosting a conference of the World Vegetarian Congress for the third time in twenty years. The first two occasions were in 1957 and 1967.

The 24th World Vegetarian Congress sponsored by International Vegetarian Union and organised by the Indian Vegetarian Congress will to be inaugurated on November 19 by Prime Minister Mr. Morarji Desai at New Delhi.

The theme of the Conference will be "Vegetarianism for Health and Happiness".

The deliberations of the forthcoming Congress will be held at four venues – New Delhi (Nov. 19 -22), Calcutta (Nov. 27 30) Madras (Dec.2 - 5) and Bombay (Dec.8 - 10).

The Madras session will be inaugurated by Vice-President Mr B.D. Jatti.

There will be an exhibition on vegetarianism. There will be a Scientific Session, a Students and Youth session, a religious session and an economic session. There will also be a public meeting at Marina.

Governor Mr. Prabhudas Patwari is the Patron and Mr. N. Krishnaswami Reddy, former Judge of the Hight Court, is the president of the reception committee of the Madras session.

Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran and other eminent persons are expected to participate in the Conference.

Mr. J.N. Mankar, Vice-President of the International Vegetarian Union, said on Tuesday evening that he could see a growing interest in vegetarianism in Japan, Australia, Indonesia Maritius and other countries where he visited recently in connection with the forthcoming 24th Conference.

He said that this interest was based on a scientific understanding and was not just a matter of tradition or blind belief.

For The Week 11th September To 17th September 1977

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

THIS week end is good for social activities. Some financial advantages are also indicated. Professional prospects are better. Go ahead with your efforts. The emotions need control. Avoid friction with associates. At home conditions are mixed. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days : 15th & 16th.

★

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

THE week opens with a favourable note on finance. Some new avenues for earning are seen. Go ahead with plans to diversify your activities. But in lending or borrowing there is need for care. Domestic scene is not up to the mark. You may have to shoulder additional responsibility and work. Avoid friction and arguments. Favourable days : 13th & 14th.

★

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

MOST of the week is favourable. But you must be prepared for financial problems during the first part of the week. However you will be able to raise the amount by the week end. There is no major change in office. But you should not strain your relations with co-workers. Health will be well maintained. Domestic scene will be peaceful. Favourable days : 12th & 13th

★

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

MOST of the week is ordinary. You should be prepared for some minor changes in your office. Avoid arguments with superiors. High expenses, pressure from creditors are possibilities. Health requires attention. You can expect cooperation from your family members in solving some of the problems. Generally, luck at the moment is below average. Favourable days : 14th & 15th

★

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

THE first part of the week stimulates enthusiasm and success in efforts. Renew your contacts and try to complete your outstanding work. Correspondence will be favourable. Family work will be exacting. Matters relating to children require special attention. There is no major change in the office. You can get some benefits from opposite sex. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days : 11th & 12th

★

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

THIS week is normal. You will be able to complete some of the long pending works. Financial worries are indicated during the second half. You will be able to enjoy family happiness. Children's achievements will give you pleasure. Health requires attention. Do not worry if the improvement is slow. Change of place is indicated for some. Avoid friction with associates. Favourable days : 14th & 15th

★

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

THIS week is good for attending to personal matters. But heavy expenses will worry you. There is no major change in your office. Problems relating to house property may have to be faced. Avoid long distance journeys unless necessary. The general level of comfort at home will be satisfactory. Favourable days : 13th & 14th

★

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

THE whole week will be satisfactory. You will be able to complete some of the outstanding work. Increase in income is indicated. Family happiness is assured. Speculative investments in real estate will yield good results. Religious performance is indicated in the family. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days : 16th & 17th

★

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

THERE is scope for financial improvement. Speculative gains are also indicated. You can go ahead with your plans. At home there is disagreements. There is need for patience to avoid misunderstanding. You can expect help from opposite sex. Partnership matters could be finalised favourably. Mental activity will increase. Profession gets some impetus. Avoid long distance journeys. Also avoid friction with associates. Favourable days : 11th & 12th

★

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana Dhanistha 1/2

THE first part of the week stimulates enthusiasm and success in efforts. Renew your old contacts. Business will improve. Finance will improve. Speculative investments should be avoided. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Health will be well maintained. Short journeys are indicated. Correspondence will be favourable. Favourable days: 13th & 14th.

GLOSSARY

Arudra	—திருவாதிரை
Pushya	—பூசம்
Ashlesha	—ஆயில்யம்
Purva Phalguni	—பூரம்
Uttara Phalguni	—உத்திரம்
Anuradha	—அனுஷம்
Jyeshtha	—கேட்டை
Purva Ashada	—பூராடம்
Uttara Ashada	—உத்திராடம்
Shravana	—திருவோணம்
Dhanistha	—அவிட்டம்
Satha Bhishag	—சதயம்
Purva Bhadra-pada	—பூரட்டாதி
Uttara Bhadra-pada	—உத்திரட்டாதி

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta 1/2 Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

MOST of the week is favourable. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to settle some of the long pending problems. Financial position will be satisfactory. avoid speculative investments for some more time. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Family members will be cooperative. Avoid long distance journeys. Health require attention. Favourable days: 16th & 17th

★

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

THE whole week could be progressive. Matters relating to family property could be settled favourably. You can also expect increase in income. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Family hapiness will increase. You can expect much pleasure from youngsters. Change of place is indicated for some. Health will be well maintained. But emotions need control. Favourable days : 12th & 13th

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Semesters And Examinations In Soviet Education

V.S. KAMALA

THE introduction of th semester system is being hotly discussed now. This led me in turn to think of education in the Soviet Union, where spent five years of my college life and was able to study the Pattern of education there.

Higher education in the Soviet Union is based on the semester pattern. There are two semesters, the first one beginning on the first day of September and closing in the month of January. The Second semester commences in the second week of February. The second semester concludes with the summer vacation. In between the two semesters there is the winter vacation. Examinations are held at the end of each semester.

At the commencement of a semester the lecturer elucidates the topics to be covered in the course of that semester. Booklets with the portions to be done during the entire course are distributed. Reference books and hand books to be consulted are also mentioned.

For instance let us take up literature. A student of this class will receive a series of lectures by experienced teachers and specialists in the subject. The teacher at the beginning of every lecture class cites the important books to be consulted on a particular topic. Lectures in turn are followed by seminars in which every student is expected to be present and actively participate. A student is given a particular topic and is asked to prepare on the same and speak on it at the seminar. Then the other students put forth questions and doubts which have to be explained by the speaker. If in case, some portions are still dark, then the lecturer (who is also present at all seminars) explains it clearly. No student can afford to miss these seminars. If owing to illness or some other valid reason a student is unable to attend a few seminars he is allowed to make up this missed session in his free 'periods'. Seminars are also valued and a person's grade at the end of a particular course rests a lot on his performance and the marks he has obtained in his seminar sessions. In order to ensure that every student gets individual attention, the number of students in each class is limited ranging from 10 to around 20 students as the maximum.

METHOD OF EXAMINATIONS

Examinations are held twice a year; and are of 2 kinds. The first differs from the second in that no marks awarded. At the end of the first system of examination the student is merely told whether he has passed or failed. This examination is called the "zachoth".

The examinations coming next are in fact the real examinations. They are also like "zachoth" conducted orally. But marks are awarded to the student on a 5 point scale. One and two points denote that the candidate has failed; 3 denotes satisfactory while 4 and 5 stand for good and very good respectively.

During the examination a student is asked to appear before a board. A piece of paper containing 2 or 3 questions is placed in front of him its face down. The questions vary from student to student. The student is supposed to furnish comprehensive answers for both the questions on the paper. Besides, the examiner will put forth a couple of supplementary questions based on the portions. The questions which are found on the paper are questions which have been discussed by the teacher in lecture sessions. The candidate is given a series of probable questions and has to be through with the answers to all of them. Any two questions can be asked and, failure to answer them will mean that the student has 'failed.' Hence there is no chance of a candidate studying only a few questions on eliminating certain questions in choice. Originality in answering the supplementary questions helps to differentiate in performance of one student from another.

If a candidate is unable to answer the questions put to him, he is asked to go home and prepare again and return after a few days. If a candidate is nervous or owing to illness is unable to perform well, he is not judged only on his performance in the orals. Instead, his performance in the semester examinations is taken into consideration. During the oral exams the teacher who has taught that candidate is also present. Board members may also question the candidate.

The student is at liberty to ask his lecturer to explain or clarify his doubts.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF A STUDENT

The Soviet Union has had a well organised, stable system of providing jobs for all youth. The process starts in the respective sectors of the Gosplan (the USSR Council of Ministers' State Planning Committee), which takes into account the prospects of development of all branches of the national economy and culture; then it is continued and made concrete in the various ministries and departments. From these applications are annually sent to Universities and higher educational establishments. Before the presentation of diplomas, every graduate is offered a choice of jobs, with due consideration for his or her desire, family status etc.

Thus, in the Soviet Union, young people, are optimistic. They have free choice and broad prospects ahead. And their optimism is backed by the planned system of placement, by legislation, and high standard of training at both secondary and higher schools.

Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

SOVIET-INDIAN FRIENDSHIP MONTH

A GRAND festival atmosphere prevailed in Moscow and in many Soviet cities during the month of August when the Soviet-Indian Friendship Month devoted to the 30th anniversary of India's Independence and to the 6th Anniversary of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and India, was celebrated. I happened to attend the concluding gala meeting that took place at the Marfino State Farm near Moscow, which is a collective member of the Soviet-Indian Friendship Society.

It was attended by the representatives of the Soviet public, the staff of the Indian Embassy and Indians studying in the USSR.

The guests of honour—a delegation of ISCUS active members—were given a hearty welcome by those present.

Nikolai Goldin, President of the Soviet-Indian Friendship Society and USSR [illegible]inister, speaking on the occasion said that all the events of the month have become a new vivid demonstration of sincere friendly feelings of our two people for each other.

Those present listened with great interest to the speech of Madhu Limaye, General Secretary of Janata Party.

He pointed out that the trip to Tashkent, Samarkand, Kiev and Leningrad was very interesting and memorable for the delegation.

Emphasizing that the Soviet Union gave India an inestimable assistance in the creation of key industrial branches, Madhu Limaye expressed confidence that in future too the USSR would play an important role in the development of the Indian economy. The General Secretary of Janata Party expressed satisfaction with the fact that the Soviet Union highly valued India's non-alignment policy. Madhu Limaye stressed that India would in future too abide by the policy of non-alignment and stronger friendship with the Soviet Union.

In conclusion Madhu Limaye said that the ISCUS delegation was taking home the warm recollections of its stay in the USSR.

The meeting was also addressed by Prof. Grigory Kotovsky, Vice-President of the Soviet-Indian Friendship Society and a well-known Soviet Indologist, and by the representatives of the Marfino State Farm.

* * *

COOPERATION PLAN

A plan for cooperation between the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, the Soviet-Indian Friendship Society (SIFS) and Indo-Soviet Cultural Society (ISCUS) has been signed in Moscow.

On the Soviet side the document was signed by N. Goldin, President of SIFS and the Society's Executive Secretary I. Yershova. On the Indian side it was signed by V. Ravi and Litto Ghosh, General Secretaries of the Society. Present at the signing ceremony were also the members of the Indian delegation: Mr. Madhu Limaye, Secretary-General of Janata Party and active members of the Soviet-Indian Friendship Society.

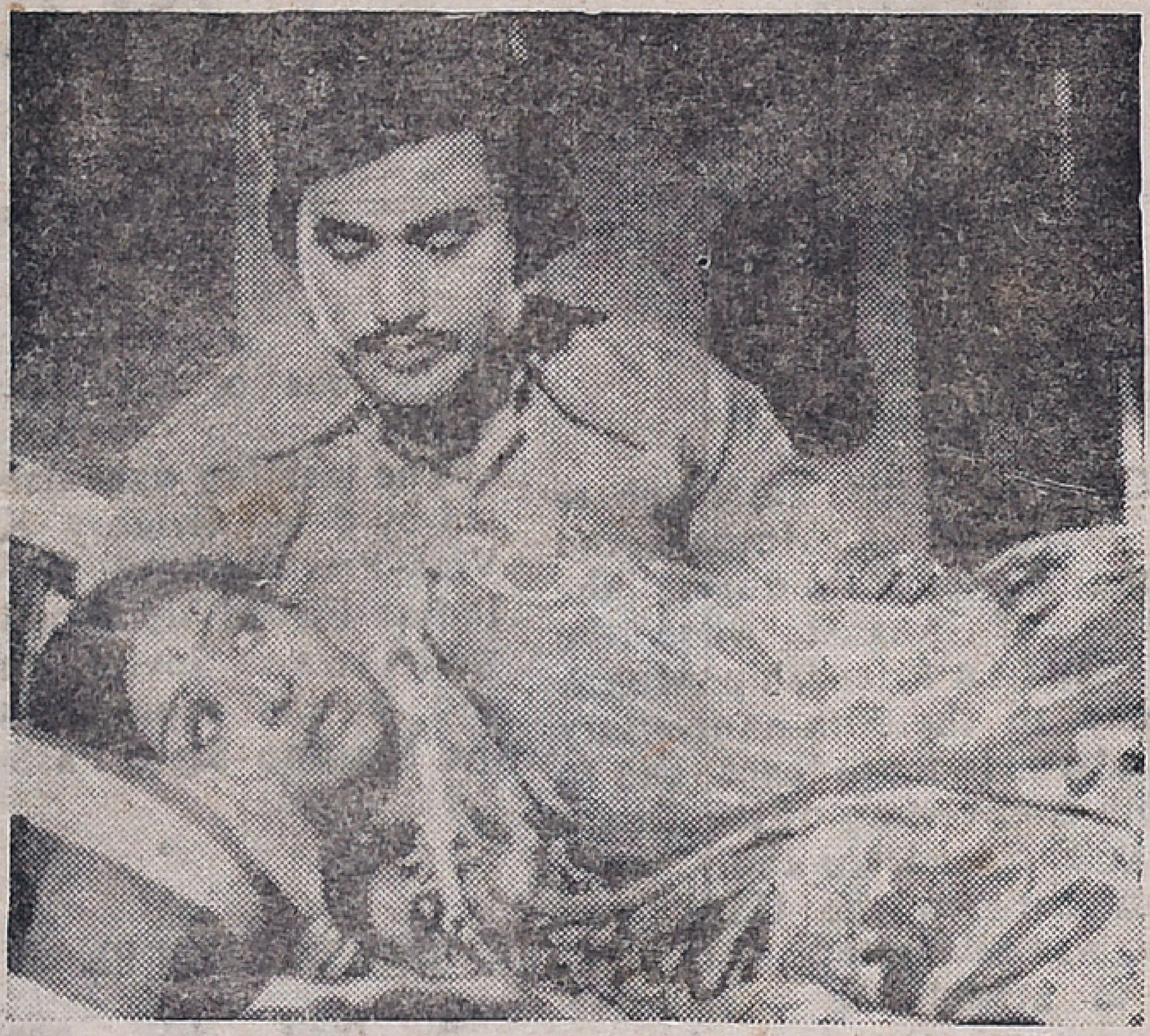
The measures mapped out for 1977-78 will further promote Soviet-Indian contacts. Some of these are: the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, holding of a Soviet-Indian symposium on the subject: "The Great October Socialist Revolution and its impact on the Development of the National-Liberation Movement in India", the arrangement of traditional months of friendship, and 10 day festivals, exchange of delegations.

A festival of Indian culture will be held in the USSR in September 1977 and an Indo-Soviet cultural festival will be held in India in November. Soviet artistic companies and delegations of cultural workers will take part in the festival.

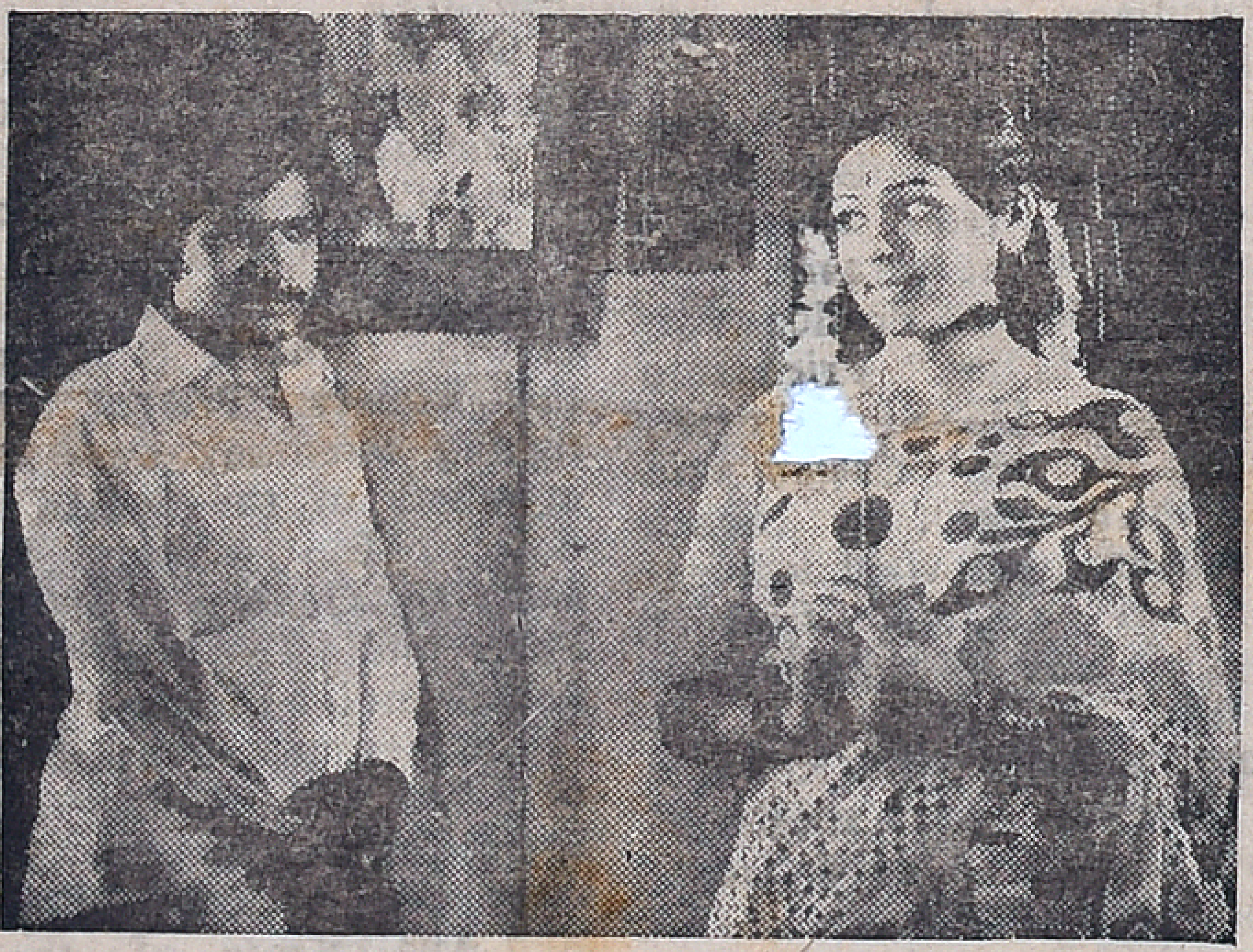
The functions devoted to the 25th Anniversary of ISCUS and the 20th Anniversary of the SIFS will undoubtedly be of great interest to the public.

Nikolai Goldin, Madhu Limaye, V. Ravi, Nandini Satpathi and Litto Ghose spoke after the signing ceremony. They pointed out the significance of this document for the promotion of contacts between the USSR and India and emphasized the importance of promoting friendship between the Soviet and Indian peoples.

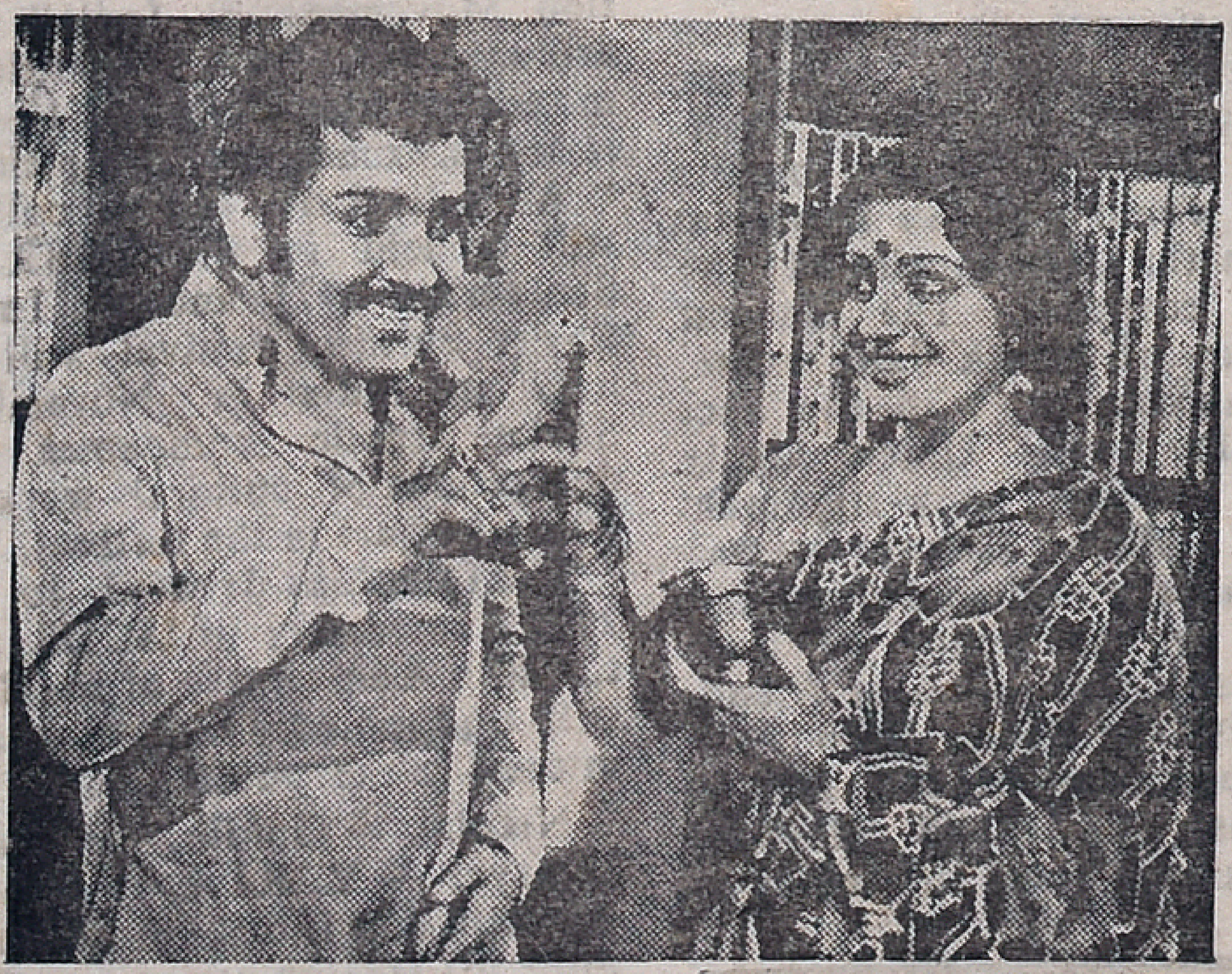
Film News In Pictures



Sujatha and newcomer K. T. Arasu in Chamundeeswari Kala Chitra's VILAKKU ERIKINTRATHU directed by T. R. Ragunath.



Newcomers Sivachandran and Swarna have done well in Premaalaya's PATTINA PRAVESAM directed by K. Balachandar.



Srividya and Sivakumar enjoying some fun in Devipriya's maiden venture in Tamil DHURGADEVI directed by Ra. Sankaran.

FILM REVIEW

Pattina Pravesam

PREMAALAYA's Tamil offering PATTINA PRAVESAM has a purposeful social theme.

It reveals explicitly the clandestine ways of living in big metropolis and shows in clear terms how many villagers who come to the city with dreams of becoming millionaries and hopes of a happy life are degraded to lead a miserable life devoid of the peace which they had when they were in villages.

Director K. Balachandar has always shown a fantastic capacity to adapt to the screen stage plays. He has again used this remarkable talent in presenting PATTINA PRAVESAM, which was originally a stage play in Tamil.

Balachandar is a director with Midas touch. He can turn a dunce into a fine actor. And when he gets a band of artistes with inherent talent he would not fail to make the best use of them. We see only the characters of the theme and not the actors in this film.

Everyone of them,—Delhi Ganesan, Jai Ganesh, Sivachandran, Kathadi Ramamurthy, Jayasree, Meera, Swarna, Swamikannu—who play the main characters, have lived the roles. And Delhi Ganesan really derserves a special mention.

Original story and dialogue are by Visu. What a way to use the words! He has played with words in a manner that gives fantastic effect when delivered by the characters. He has been ably guided by the director, who himself was very much impressed by the dialogues of Visu on the stage.

As for the photography, B.S. Lokanath has done some experiments successfully. This is the first time a full length feature film in Tamil has used the ORWO film, with some success.

M.S. Viswanathan has set to tune the songs penned by Kannadasan.

Aa Nimisham

AA NIMISHAM, in Malayalam, produced by Cherupushpam Films has a powerful psychological theme.

It narrates on the screen, with telling effect, how the unconsciously developed hatred of a little girl towards a grown up girl leads to a murder and lands the child in a mental asylum.

Prabha (Madhu) and Shylaja (Sheela) in a bit to help Bindu (Sree Devi) when her mother dies takes her into their household. Strangely Rajani (Baby Sumathy) daughter of Prabha hates Bindu. Time passess. Prabha meets with an accident. In the absence of Shylaja staying with her sick father, Bindu nurses Prabha and succumbs to his beastly desires and becomes pregnant. What happens then on is narrated in the latter half of the film.

I.V. Sasi has ably directed the film produced by K.J. Joseph.

Music is by G. Deverajan and C. Ramachandran has photographed.

From page 1

Can They Merge...

Dravida Kazhagam? What purpose is to be served in the move for a merger?

The question of merger itself in the Indian political scene appears to be a convenient peacetime occupation for parties with nothing else to do. The two Congresses in Tamil Nadu brought about a merger after the death of Mr. Kamaraj leaving the merger parties weaker than the parent body (Cong O) which later became the Janata Party.

IN A POLITICAL WILDRNESS

The newly created Makkal Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam seems to be lost in a political wilderness of its own making. It did not contest the last Assembly elections in the State but chose to lend its moral support to AIADMK.

Now, in order to find a place in the Sun the MDMK is in two minds whether to strehgthen itself by expanding its political base or to merge with the AIADMK. Its policies are dictated by two criterions, namely safeguarding the Dravidan movement and the advocating of the principles of the late Mr. C.N. Annadurai. It has arrogated to itself the position of championing Tamil culture as if Tamil is ever in danger of losing its identity or greatness.

In this respect the MDMK seeks affinity with AIADMK which professes to propagate Annaism—so elastic in political parlance that it could be interpreted to suit situations as they arise.

Now that the ruling AIADMK has asserted itself as a force to reckon with, the disenchanted member of the Makkal DMK would be wise to seek admission into AIADMK instead of trying to dabble in political adventurism.

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